

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CRESTON TELEPHONE CUSTOMERS TO VOTE ON EAS

LINCOLN – Telephone customers of Qwest Communication's Creston exchange in northeastern Platte County will determine whether extended area service with Columbus will be implemented in a balloting process that begins in mid-July.

The Nebraska Public Service Commission recently approved ballot language and a timetable for the vote. Qwest will mail a ballot to its customers in mid-July with a deadline of August 21 for the ballots to be returned to the Nebraska Public Service Commission for tabulation.

Commissioner Rod Johnson who attended the public meeting in Creston on May 21, at which the EAS proposal was discussed, said, "The Creston community should be commended for their efforts that have resulted in a ballot for the new service."

A majority of persons participating in the balloting will determine the outcome of the proposal. One vote is permitted by PSC rules per account with the local telephone exchange provider.

Qwest proposes to charge its Creston customers \$1.80 per month per line for residential service and two dollars per month for each business line. Creston currently has extended area service with Humphrey for 50 cents per month for residential lines and one dollar per month for businesses.

Columbus is served by Frontier Communications, which has successfully asked the Public Service Commission for a waiver of the balloting requirement for Columbus because of the minimal nature of the proposed monthly additive of five cents each for business and residential customers.

Extended area service provides unlimited calling between the exchanges for the flat monthly rate additive.

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Send to: Columbus Telegram, Humphrey Democrat, Colfax County Press and Leigh World (Clarkson), KLIK Radio, KJSK Radio in Columbus, Associated Press